# 1939 ANNUAL REPORT

This report will review for you a part of the work carried on through the County Agents office. The County Agricultural Agent is the active representative of the Agricultural Committee of the County Board. It has been the aim of the County Agricultural Agent to work in close harmony and cooperation to fulfill the wishes of this county. This office is conducted and sponsored by county, state, and federal funds. It wishes to serve in any capacity possible, the farmers of St. Croix County.

## FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The several federal programs, all of which have a definite part in our Agricultural program, were cooperated with in the hope of bringing to the farmers of St. Croix county the best possible services. While the County Agent has not taken any active part in any of these federal programs this past year, he has been interested in them and worked for their success.

### Soil Conservation

97% of the farmers of St. Croix County participated in the 1939 Agricultural Conservation program. This was the highest percentage of participation in any county in the state this year. As secretary to the County Conservation Committee, the County Agent has had very close contacts with the principles and work policies of this program. Additional material and information has been given out through the office from time to time in the form of individual contacts and especially so in the various educational meetings held in the county from time to time.

Disregarding the payment end of the program for the time being, the high-spot in the Soil Conservation Program was the second-annual Farmer-Business men's Banquet held at New Richmond, January 17th, at the Hotel Beebe. County and community committeemen and their businessmen guests enjoyed a fine banquet, followed by discussion of the broader policies of the program by both farmers and businessmen alike. Keener interest on the part of business men was manifest this year than at the previous banquet. Ben Rusy, state supervisor of County Agents, was the principal speaker of the evening. Following his discussion of agricultural problems, he entertained the group with songs and stories which added much to the program.

Because of the fine cooperation between farm reporters, county committee, and clerical help, it was possible for the Association to pay out $120,280.55 to 1614 farmers, beginning October 18,1939. This represents the first group of checks to be paid for the 1939 payments. There were 281 parity payments for wheat made, which totaled $1,736.59. The payments for the 1938 program totaled $234,523.11.

This office has been interested in promoting sound practices and has introduced these practices to the farmers of the county

under the present AAA program. It is now possible for farmers to receive payments for the recognized soil building practices. This is one of the fine features of this program and it should be encouraged wherever possible.

Soil Erosion

Many individual soil erosion control problems have been brought to our attention this past year and we have given much advise in the prevention of further destruction of property wherever possible. In some cases we have called in state and federal technicians who have assisted in offering their services to the farmers of the county. Our aim has not been to work so much in repairing the damage already done as it has been in stopping further damage and losses from soil erosion.

The Kinnickinnic Soil Conservation District has been officially created during the past year. This is a joint district consisting of the towns of Troy and Kinnickinnic in St. Croix County and Clifton and River Falls in Pierce County. Following the procedure established in the Enactment Law of 1937 has been a tedious job. It has necessitated much delay. However, the interest of the farmers of the district has been maintained and enthusiasm for the district is still evident. The district has been organized and the charter approved by the state. The board of supervisors, consists of John Chapman, Forest McCue, and Fred Lindenberger, who were elected, and H. G. Seyforth, Pierce County Agricultural Agent, and myself, appointed by the state Soil Conservation Committee. The three elected members will administer policies for the district and will work in the interests of the farmers of that district.

Farm Security Administration

The office of the Farm Security Administration has been capably in charge of Ray De Golier, as supervisor. These two offices have been in close touch with each other throughout the year. We find that we have many problems in common, and it has been our aim to cooperate with farmers who are eligible clients of F.S.A.

The work of the Tenant Purchase Committee, which has been in charge of the loaning of federal funds for the purchase of farms for worthy tenants has been one of the outstanding accomplishments of F.S.A, this past year. It has been interesting to work with this committee and with the farmers who have become borrowers under this Tenant Purchase program, because in a sense of the word they are pioneers again. Most of them are starting from scratch with little invested capitol. These men and their families all have a determination to own these farms. They are people of good character who have more than an even chance of making a success out of farming with the cooperation of this program. It will be with interest in the entire tenancy program that this office will continue to be closely associated with the Tenant Purchase Program.

R. E. A.

The St. Croix County Electric Cooperative established its

present office in Baldwin, November 1, 1938. Mr. Wm. Rutzen, former president of the Cooperative, was elected as Manager. Mr. Rutzen and his able Board of Directors has been carrying on the activities of the R.E.A. program in the interests of its members. This office has cooperated in holding a series of meetings, at which time membership has been solicited. The first staking for the R.E.A. was started on Nov. 7th, 1938. Holtz Bros. the contractors for the project, began working Dec. 5, 1938. The past year has been filled with activity for the manager and the Board of Directors. The first poles were set Dec. 12, 1938 and the first line was energized May 24, 1939. At the present time, there are 168.2 miles of line energized, which is serving 285 customers. The "B" project is now under construction and will consist of 256 miles to serve 675 customers. When this is completed it will make a total of 424.2 miles of R.E.A. line in St. Croix County. It is hard to recall a single cooperative whose efforts have been as pronounced as that of the R.E.A. As a result of this and other R.E.A. Cooperatives, farmers who have never had access to high-voltage electricity now can obtain it. Farmers who previously paid high rates for electricity now have it at a much reduced rate because of the competition provided by R.E.A. It has made possible cheaper electricity not only for its members but for patrons of private utilities as well.

## 4-H CLUB WORK

225 farm boys and girls participated in the 1939 4-H club program as carried on in St. Croix County. The 4-H program tried to provide constructive projects and wholesome recreation for each of these members. The success of club work this past year, as in previous years, is due largely to the fine cooperation received by the local adult leaders who gave so freely of their time and effort that the youngsters from the various rural communities might enjoy the benefits of a full and well-rounded 4-H program.

### District 4-H Camp.

Thirty-five St. Croix County 4-H members, who attended the district club camp at the Y.M.C.A. camp grounds, south of Hudson, enjoyed a most wholesome four-day camp. This camp gives club members from this county a chance to enjoy a fine outing and to be associated with club members from Pepin, Pierce, and Polk counties. It is the aim of the County Agents in charge of this camp to provide a program for these club members which will not only inspire them to do better 4-H club work but will teach them some of the basic fundamentals of living and working together. Each member is supplied with sufficient work to keep them busy most of the day. Supervised recreation is always enjoyed by all.

### State 4-H Camp.

St. Croix County was represented at the State 4-H Camp held at the College of Agriculture by five 4-H members and leaders. The purpose of this camp is to train junior and adult leaders and to give them a recreational outing as well. Latest developments in the state 4-H club program is given out at this camp.